Nuggets of News

Gold Hill Historical Society - July 1998

Meetings are held 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum. 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon. (except for August when the annual picnic/potluck is held at noon on the third Sunday on the Museum grounds).

Iris Dusenberry Kendall

Iris Dusenberry Kendall (shown here with classmates during her "School Days") was a member of our society for many years as well as being the sexton for the Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery. With deep regret we print this notice of her April death in an auto accident in front of her home on Highway 234 in Gold Hill. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

Pioneer Cemetery Association

Marge Martin, Gold Hill Historical Society president, is also president of the Pioneer Cemetery Association, and therefore much of the recordkeeping and cemetery business has reverted to our society which is an appropriate unification. With cemetery records on the premises, museum visitors searching for past family generations may now be helped more effectively. This alliance meets one of the original goals of the historical society which was to assist with the care of the Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery. (Note: For further reading on this subject, see "Rock Point Cemetery" elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Negative #1755, GHHS

Classmates at Alderbrook School on Sardine Creek in Gold Hill, Oregon, 1927. Front row, l. to r.: Iris Dusenberry, Mabel Dusenberry, Alice Dusenberry, Jean Smith. Middle row, l. to r.: Nora Dusenberry, Alice Ring, and Dora Smith. Back row, rear: Edith Dusenberry and Miss Hurt, teacher.

News, photographs, and events for members of the Gold Hill Historical Society, Est. 1986.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 26, Gold Hill OR 97525-0026
Museum Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Admission: FREE

Receipts from a vintage recipe book, *"The Blue Book of Canning and Preserving Receipts"*, Magill-Weinsheimer Co. Chicago, undated.

"Spiced Apples. Wash, peel, quarter and core the apples and then chop them fine. Make a syrup by boiling together for fifteen minutes two quarts of water and two and a half quarts of sugar. Add the rind and pulp of two oranges, two pounds of seeded raisins chopped fine, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, and one and a half teaspoonfuls of ground cloves. While this mixture is boiling, add three quarts of the chopped apples. Continue the boiling fifteen minutes longer and while still boiling fill into BALL jars and seal."

"Sweet Green Tomato Pickles. Mix together one peck of green sliced tomatoes, six large sliced onions, and one teacupful of salt. Let the mixture stand overnight, and in the morning drain off the liquid. Boil the mixture for five minutes in two quarts of water and one quart of vinegar. Drain it again. Boil for fifteen minutes four quarts of vinegar, a quart of brown sugar, half a pound of ground mustard, a tablespoonful of cloves, two tablespoonfuls of cinnamon, two tablespoonfuls of ginger. Put the drained tomatoes and onions in BALL jars, pour over them the boiling liquid and seal the jars at once."

"Dandelion Wine. Use only fresh blossoms and carefully remove all stems, as otherwise the wine will be extremely bitter. To every quart of blossoms, well packed but not crushed, add two sliced lemons, two sliced oranges, and a quart of boiling water. Allow this mixture to stand for twenty-four hours; then drain off all the juice. For every quart of juice obtained add a cupful of granulated sugar. Pour the sweetened juice into BALL Jars and stand them in granite pans or similar receptacles. Allow the jars to stand until all fermentation ceases. Each morning it will be found that fermentation has caused thejars to run over, but that the liquid does not stand at the top. With the contents of one jar fill the others level full each morning. After all fermentation ceases empty the wine out, wash the jars in hot water, put the rubbers in place, refill the jars to overflowing, and seal them. This makes a very mild wine."
(More recipes of the past in upcoming issues.)

Welcome New Members

A heartfelt welcome to new members Cliff and Barbara Finnie who have graciously helped with this newsletter and have also offered to help with future newsletters, the calendar and the photography department. The extended hand from both of you is a lifesaver! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Welcome also to Gloria Wood who has just joined and has expressed interest in volunteering to assist us. We have many jobs which we hope will be of interest to her and which will help us to meet our goals. We all look forward to meeting Gloria at our next meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum.

Gift Shop

New arrivals in the gift shop include T-shirts in a raspberry color and caps in gold. Our curator, Joyce Wayland, has also restocked many of the items pertaining to gold mining and/or panning, and early Indians along the Rogue River.

Be sure to stop by and look over the new selection.

Stamp Mill

Work continues setting up the stamp mill again. Progress has been slow. Lifting the heavy timbers and stamps must wait until equipment and manpower is available. Our logger with the self-loader has sold his truck so has not been able to help us with this part of the job as he so graciously did in the past. Another Friend of the Society, Will Cowie, has been helping us with the stamp mill project as his time allows. Hopefully, it will not be too much longer until we can see this project completed.

Window Treatment

Thanks to the efforts of Marge Martin, Armella Wharton, Lyn and Rex Parker, the windows downstairs in the main display room and the west windows upstairs have been covered with film to block out UV rays, reduce sun damage, heat, fade, and glare. We hope to do other windows in the museum as time and other duties allow.

Jackson County History Museums Association

With belief in the premise that there is power in numbers, and to simplify the budget process with the county, many of the small county historical societies have banded together with the assistance of Southern Oregon Historical Society. They are calling themselves the Jackson County History Museums Association. In this way, all requests to the county for funding will be screened first by the association and then presented to the county by just that one organization. This new association will meet periodically throughout the year for an exchange of ideas and information.

Visitors

Summer finally arrived (we had all but given up hope!) and with the arrival of warmer weather our museum visitors increased. Gold panning and mining in the area remains one of the major topic of interest. Former residents searching for information on ancestors is the next most popular topic of interest. The river and the longing for older, more peaceful times and the observation of the ingenuity of the 1900's brings in many visitors, too. We've had many favorable comments from our visitors about the museum.

If you haven't visited for awhile, stop by and see our new displays. The *Whole Cloth* display which is being held in conjunction with other museums in the area, will be over in September so take advantage of this opportunity to see a Victorian crazy quilt dated 1885, a World War II Sunday dinner cloth with embroidered names of service men and women, as well as many other beautiful artifacts made of cloth

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Coloring Contest

To encourage interest in area history, Gold Hill Historical Society, in conjunction with the Gold Hill Public Library sponsored a coloring contest for students in grades 1 through 6. Deadline for turning in completed contest forms was July 1, 1998. Judging will be completed and prizes will be awarded at our next regular meeting on July 15, 1998. Contestants will be grouped by age, Grades 1 through 3 and Grades 4 through 6. First prize for each group will be a gold panning kit. Second prize for each group will be a Gold Hill Historical Society T-shirt.

Memorial Garden

Many donations were received in memory of Cleo Gilchrist and Iris Kendall. While these donations are welcome to assist in achieving our society goals, the Board felt that part of these monies should be used to establish a memorial garden in one area on the Museum grounds with an engraved plaque, benches—a peaceful garden with bird feeders and a picket fence.

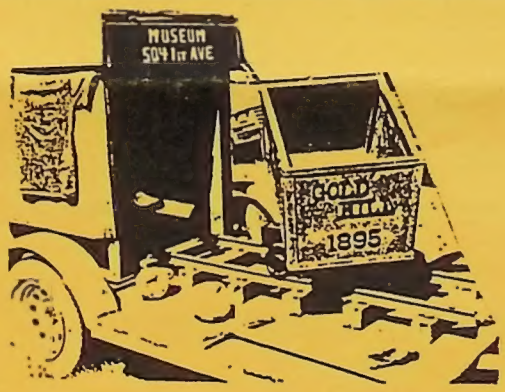
Ideas and help on the Memorial Garden project, as well as on any other project we have in progress, are always appreciated.

New Roof

A contract has been let for a new museum roof. A bid was accepted from Cothran Construction, a local business, and work began on July 3, 1998. Having a new roof in place before the next rainy season will be a great feeling of comfort for everyone associated with the museum.

The roofing job consists of taking off the old shingles down to sheathing (there are four layers in some places), replacing all old dry rot wood, then re-shingling with 30-year shingles. The upgrade from 25-year to 30-year shingles is a donation from Allied Building Products Corporation and Cothran Construction. Many thanks to them for this contribution.

Numerous problems are anticipated with both gables where flashing is non-existent and window sills rest directly on top of shingles. Rick Cothran assures us these problems will be corrected, and we are looking forward to this peace of mind.



Doll Drawing at Potluck in August

Our beautiful porcelain Indian doll will be raffled off at the August potluck/meeting at the Museum, Sunday, August 23, 1998, noon until ?

Be sure to get your tickets for the drawing and join us for the potluck (tickets will also be available to purchase at the event). The food is always fantastic and it is great fun for all! Bring your friends and family and join us for this once-a-year opportunity!!

History of Rock Point Cemetery

(The following appeared in the *Gold Hill Nugget*, May 18, 1977, written by Alice Tipton)

"Many members of the community are not aware of the existence of the Rock Point Cemetery, located between Sardine Creek and the Rock Point Bridge. This is an historic cemetery over one hundred years old but very much in use today with lots selling at a nominal fee to area residents.

"The original land, containing 26 acres, was donated for cemetery use in 1874 by John B. White, with Ben Haymond, J. L. White and Fredrick Birdseye named as trustees. In 1899 the IOOF purchased the northeast portion for the sum of $50.00 and it is in the same ownership today.

"The original trustees passed away without naming successors and after years of neglect, in 1955, Jackson County appointed Charles White, William Wright and Nora Wait to serve as trustees. Volunteer help for maintenance was sporadic and fell mostly in the trustees. In 1964 a proposal was made to the Jackson County Court to form a cemetery district, maintenance to be supplied by tax assessment in four Gold Hill area precincts. 665 people petitioned against the proposal and in 1965 a non-profit corporation was formed with an Oregon State Charter. Membership is included with the purchase of a burial lot. Five members serve on the Board of Directors. The present directors are Glenn Birdseye, Fern Paulson, Bob Evans, Winona Nichols and Nadine Deal. Meeting of members is held annually in conjunction with clean-up day on the Saturday preceeding Memorial Day weekend, falling this year (1977) on May 21st at 9:00 a.m. A potluck lunch is served at noon. All volunteer workers are welcome and greatly appreciated. Men with lawn mowers are especially needed.

In 1972, the river front property, being unsuitable for burial purpose, was leased to the Oregon State Game Commission for a wayside park. At this time, park funds are not yet available for development.

More on the Rock Point Cemetery
(By Ruby Quakenbush, Gold Hill, Oregon - 1956)

"In the latter part of the 19th century as the West was developing, a problem of the civilized settlers was to provide a respectable and common burial ground for their loved ones. This condition existed along the Rogue River in the vicinity of Rock Point, a settlement of some of the earliest settlers of the Rogue River Valley.

"One of these early settlers by the name of J. B. White of Rock Point who had received a donation land grant in 1864 from the Government, recognized this need and in 1874 deeded twenty-six and a fraction acres of land to the public for cemetery purposes. This property was placed under the supervision of three trustees known as Benjamin Haymond, Fred Birdseye and J. L. White. These trustees were to appoint successors in case of death or resignation. When these appointed trustees passed on without naming successors the cemetery was left to the public in general, resulting in a more or less forgotten purpose and a very unsightly place due to lack of interest.

"In 1898 a part of this property was sold to the I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 129 of Gold Hill by the trustees for the sum of Fifty Dollars. This lodge maintained and developed their part of the property, making the old cemetery even more unsightly by comparison.

"In 1955 the project of cleaning up and reestablishing the old cemetery was brought to the attention of the Gold Hill Grange by its Lecturer, Mrs. Icie Walker, and the Grange adopted this as a community project with full authorization to Mrs. Walker to proceed with it.

"Mrs. Walker, with the aid of assistants, was able to uncover and locate the original deed given to the cemetery property by Mr. White. Many efforts had been made in the past by various organizations as well as the Jackson County Court, to locate this legal paper. The deed was finally found among old papers in the possession of a local resident, descendant of the original trustee, Benjamin Haymond. This deed told book and volume

(Continued next page)

number where it had been recorded at the Jackson County Court House. With the help of the Court House employees the old records were searched and the recorded deed was found. A copy of the deed was made by Mrs. Walker for future use.

"Among the old papers found with the deed in our neighbor's home were old land grants signed by Abraham Lincoln and other Presidents of that time. The history of these old papers uncovered the fact that Benjamin Haymond owned one of the two vaults in this country at that time. The other vault was located in Jacksonville. It was the practice of the early settlers to place important papers in the vault of Mr. Haymond for safe-keeping. Many of these papers were not reclaimed.

"The cemetery deed with information which had been gathered was placed before the Jackson County Court by the project committee for advisement. The Court referred the committee to the District Attorney. At the advisement of the District Attorney a petition was circulated by Mrs. Walker among the old-time residents who have relatives and friends interred in the old cemetery, giving the County Court authority to name three new trustees to take up the welfare of the cemetery in accordance with the bequest of Mr. White in the deed. This circulation of the petition took many days and much effort to complete. Residents living on Evans Creek, Savage Creek, Birdseye Creek, Foots Creek, Sardine Creek, Galls Creek, and in Sams Valley were contacted; in fact, all of the territory in this vicinity was covered, and all residents proved very helpful, as many descendants of the old pioneer famlies are still living here. The people contacted were glad to sign the petition and give what information they knew concerning those buried in the cemetery, and all were glad that interest had been taken to readjust and clean up the property which has been neglected so long. Relatives and descendants of these old pioneers can be found in most all parts of the United States, for the pioneers came here from all parts of the country. Many of them fought Indians to give us the land and valley which we enjoy today. For instance, the old log cabin on Highway 99 near Birdseye Creek was the boyhood home of Fred Birdseye, one of the original trustees named by Mr. White in his deed to the cemetery property. The old house has been well preserved and a monument has been placed nearby it commemorating the old Birdseye Fort which was built near the log house and was used by settlers for protection during the uprising of the Rogue River Indians 1851-1856.

"L. J. White was born in Livingston County, New York, came to Oregon in 1858 and to Jackson County in 1859. He was married in 1844 and died at Rock Point in 1877 and was buried at Rock Point. Mr. White built the Rock Point Hotel which was also used as a stage stop during early times. This old building still stands (at the site of the former Del Rio Orchard) and is being used as a home by the present owners.

"Before the death of Fred Birdseye he appointed George W. Lance, Sr. as trustee. Mr. Lance lived on Foots Creek. He was born in Tennessee in 1832, came to Oregon and Jackson County in 1870. He died and was buried in the Rock Point Cemetery without naming a successor as trustee, and from this came the confusion which is being corrected by this project. It might be mentioned that Mr. Lance was the grandfather of Floyd Lance who lived in Gold Hill.

"The petition with forty-eight names attached was presented to the County Court and resulted in the naming of three new trustees, W. L. Wright and Mrs. Nora Wait of Sardine Creek, and Charles E. White of Rogue River. Two of these trustees are Grange members.

"To acquaint people with the project, a cleanup day was held and many Grange members as well as other interested residents participated. A Thanksgiving Dance given November 23, 1955, was well attended and proceeds went to the cemetery fund. The first meeting of the new trustees was held at the home of Mrs. Walker in November 1955. Mrs. Wait was elected treasurer; Charles White, Secretary; and Mr. Wright, Chairman of the Trustees. Mrs. Walker was appointed Chairman of the Improvement Committee. A fund of $217.50 was given to Mrs. Wait, Secretary, on

(Continued next page)

February 3, 1956. This was the proceeds from the November dance and other donations which had been given to help get the project started. Several cleanup days followed and many hours of labor were donated by both Grange members and others interested. On these cleanup days coffee and sandwiches were served and many workers spent the day clearing brush and burning trash. A great improvement began to be noticeable in a short time.

"During this period of reorganization and cleaning up, many graves have been remarked, identified and named. Graves have been filled, vegetation and brush cleared way and many unsightly conditions removed.

"The last fund-raising event was a sausage breakfast given in the Grange Hall in May which netted a sizeable profit from the project.

"A survey of the property is now in progress. When this survey is completed, lots will be plotted and various improvements will be undertaken. Lots will be sold under the supervision of the trustees and perpetual care will be established as soon as possible. This is indeed a contrast to the previous methods carried out in the cemetery whereby interments were made without permission or charge, with lack of consideration for the location of other graves, resulting in no orderly system of burial.

"The big undertaking now before the committee is to get a sufficient water supply into the cemetery for proper care.

"Not only has this project helped to beautify our surroundings; it has kept faith with that worthy pioneer who gave this cemetery to the public so long ago.

"Hours devoted by Grangers: 370 hours

"Hours devoted by non-Grangers: 360 hours"

July 1998: Anyone interested in present-day cemetery information, contact Marge Martin or Joyce Wayland at the Gold Hill Historical Society.

Gold Hill Historical Society
Membership Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

☐ Family Membership $5.00 per year

☐ Contribution

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer

Return to:
Gold Hill Historical Society
P.O. Box 26
Gold Hill OR 97525-0026

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Our Purpose and Goals

The Gold Hill Historical Society's Purpose and Goals are to collect, document, and preserve the history of Gold Hill and area through:

* Oral Histories
* Photographs
* Artififacts
* Books

Don't Forget!!!
Summer Potluck at Museum
August 23, 1998
Noon until ?
Bring your friends and family!

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
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Eagle Point Historical Society
PO Box 201
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